

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the applicator comprises a hollow tubular body having a bore, the bore being configured to received the device.
3. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the applicator comprises a half-tubular body configured to receive the device.
4. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the coating surface comprises a completely or substantially flat substrate on which the device can be placed.
5. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the porous region comprises pores having an average pore radius of about 0.1 microns to about 1000 microns.
6. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the porous region has a porosity of about 20% to about 60%.

Claims 7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, additionally including an apparatus to rotate the support element.

11.     **(Canceled).**
12.     (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the applicator is movable in a linear direction.
13.     (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the device is a stent.
14.     **(Canceled).**
15.     (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the applicator is made from a ceramic or polymeric material.
16.     (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the applicator is made from a rigid material such that the coating surface does not comply when the device contacts the coating surface.
17.     **(Currently Amended)** A system for coating an implantable medical device with a coating composition, comprising:
  - a reservoir holding a coating composition;
  - an applicator including a coating surface and a porous region in fluid communication with the coating composition in the reservoir, wherein the porous region is capable of conveying

the coating composition from the reservoir to the coating surface[[:]], the applicator further including:

a first section having a porous region disposed in the coating composition in the reservoir, and

a second section having a porous region in fluid communication with the porous region of the first section, the second section being disposed over the first section so as to provide a sealed space between the second section and the coating composition in the reservoir, wherein the second section includes the coating surface to coat the implantable medical device; and wherein the pressurizing device is in fluid communication with the sealed space;

a support element to support an implantable medical device in close proximity to or in contact with the coating surface of the applicator;

a temperature controller in communication with the applicator, the support element or the reservoir for heating or cooling the coating composition; and

further comprising a pressurizing device in communication with the applicator or the reservoir for enhancing the conveyance of the coating composition from the reservoir to the coating surface.

18. (Canceled).

19. **(Currently Amended)** The system of ~~Claim 18~~ Claim 17, wherein the second section of the applicator comprises a hollow tubular body having a longitudinal bore configured to receive the implantable medical device.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The system of ~~Claim 18~~ Claim 17, wherein the porous region of the first section has an average pore size smaller than the average pore size of the porous region of the second section.

21-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the applicator has a uniform pore pattern.

35. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the applicator includes a network of interconnected pores.

36. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 17, wherein the applicator includes pores that are sized such that particles within the coating composition that exceed a predetermined size are not capable of being conveyed to the coating surface.

Claims 37-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein the coating surface is horizontally disposed above the reservoir.

41. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein a portion of the applicator is partially submerged in the reservoir.

42. (Previously presented) A system for coating an implantable medical device with a coating composition, comprising:

a reservoir of coating composition;

an applicator in fluid communication with the reservoir, the applicator including a porous coating portion having a coating surface, and a porous portion for conveying coating composition from the reservoir to the coating portion, wherein the length and/or width of the coating portion is substantially greater than the length and/or width of the porous portion; and

a support element to support an implantable medical device in close proximity to or in contact with the coating surface of the applicator;

wherein the reservoir has walls and the walls, the porous portion and the coating portion form a closed space containing at least a portion of the coating composition contained in the reservoir, further including:

a pressure device in fluid communication with the space and configured for regulating the coating composition conveyed to the coating surface by regulating the pressure in the space.

43. (Previously Presented) the system of Claim 42, wherein a surface of the coating portion facing the coating composition contained in the space is sealed.

44. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein the coating portion includes a coating surface formed by a horizontally disposed cylinder.

45. (Previously presented) the system of Claim 42, wherein the coating portion has a first average pore size and the porous portion has a second average pore size that is smaller than the first average pore size.

46. (Previously presented) A system for coating an implantable medical device with a coating composition, comprising:

a reservoir holding a coating composition;

an applicator including a coating surface and a porous region in fluid communication with the coating composition in the reservoir, wherein the porous region is capable of conveying the coating composition from the reservoir to the coating surface;

a support element to support an implantable medical device in close proximity to or in contact with the coating surface of the applicator; and

a pressure apparatus configured to supply a gas to, and being in fluid communication with the coating composition so as to enhance the loading of the coating surface.

47. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 46, further including the reservoir, coating composition and/or applicator forming a closed space and the pressure apparatus draws a vacuum in the closed space.

48. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 46, wherein the pressure apparatus supplies a gas to the coating composition to enhance the loading of the coating surface.